

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 85

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Anna M. Crook

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT STUDY AND COMPARE THE RECIDIVISM RATES AND THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRISONS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico prisons are facing a shortage of bed space in the near future; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has no plans to increase the number of prisons throughout New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, recidivism reduction is one of the critical means that the corrections department can use to ensure adequate bed space for the future; and

WHEREAS, over ninety percent of prisoners will be released from prison back into their communities; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to ensure that prisoners are

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1 receiving the appropriate programming to prepare them for their
2 eventual release from prison; and

3 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that prisoners are
4 prepared to become productive members of their communities; and

5 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that prisoners are
6 taught skills while in prison to address their possible
7 addictions and mental health, education, vocational, parenting
8 and family unification needs;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the corrections department be
11 requested to study and compare the recidivism rates and the
12 similarities and differences of program requirements and
13 outcomes between the public and private prisons in New Mexico;
14 and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study the
16 corrections department confer with other persons and
17 organizations with knowledge and interest in recidivism
18 reduction; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department
20 report the results of the study, including any legislative
21 recommendations, to the appropriate interim legislative
22 committee; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the secretary of corrections and the co-chairs
25 of the New Mexico legislative council.

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